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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Field, et al.
Serial No.: 10/051,322
Confirmation No.: 7967
Filed: January 18, 2002
For: SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD
OF USE
Examiner: Glenn K. Dawson
Art Unit: 3731

MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination after entry of the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this amendment.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 4 of this amendment.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 5 of this amendment.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this amendment.